

Companies involved in the auto industry have been particularly successful in creating jobs. In Perry County a company that makes castings for auto and machine parts, as well as engine supports, recently invested \$60 million in a 200,000 sq. ft. facility, creating 220 new jobs. In Switzerland County a company is expanding its manufacturing facility to make a brake system component for General Motors, creating up to 100 new jobs. In Jefferson County a company that makes die castings for the auto industry recently invested \$14 million to expand its operation, creating 100 new jobs. In Clark County a Houston-based company announced plans to build a \$12.5 million plant at the Clark Maritime Centre that will produce thermal plastic resins for the auto and appliance manufacturing industries, creating 72 new jobs. At the Northern Industrial Park in Scottsburg a new company will produce plastic-injection components for the auto, appliance, and electronics industries and will create 60 new jobs over 3 years.

Manufacturing companies other than those involved in the auto industry are also doing well. In Jeffersonville the country's largest inland shipbuilder recently received its biggest order since World War II. The ships are to be built between now and 1999, and at least 250 new jobs will be created to fill the order. In Perry County a furniture manufacturer recently increased its plant capacity, creating 60 new jobs. In Ripley County another furniture maker specializing in entertainment centers plans to expand production and create 45 new jobs by June.

It is not just manufacturing companies that are succeeding in the 9th District. In Jeffersonville a trucking company is investing \$17.5 million to enlarge its truck fleet and real estate holding and to update its terminal. It will purchase 285 new trucks and add 200-300 new jobs. In Jennings County a Texas-based company is constructing a \$35 million indoor shrimp-breeding facility, creating 40 new jobs once it is fully operational. In Floyd County an operator of consumer merchandise rent-to-own stores reported record results in 1995, with revenues up 35% over 1994.

Some large corporations are also playing a positive role in the region. For example, Toyota recently announced its plans to build a new \$700 million truck assembly plant in Gibson County, which will create hundreds of well-paying jobs throughout southern Indiana. Hyatt is building a 118,000 sq. ft. entertainment pavilion and 200 room hotel along the river in Ohio County. That project should create about 3,000 new jobs. Similar entertainment projects are underway in other counties.

HELPING BUSINESS GROWTH

Local business and community leaders certainly take the lead in boosting job growth, but there are several ways the federal government can help.

Because small businesses are the engine of growth, we have to find ways to help make them be more competitive. One step is to make sure that affordable financing is available to them, through the private sector and the Small Business Administration. In addition, we must continue to reduce the federal budget deficit. We have cut the deficit in half in the last four years, and bringing it down further will help keep interest rates low and make it less expensive for businesses to borrow. We also have to continue reducing unnecessary, burdensome regulations that impose unreasonable costs on small businesses, and we should reform the tax code so it encourages greater investment and savings.

At the same time, we need to increase the quality of the workforce by investing in the

education and skills training necessary to make Hoosiers competitive in today's economy. Finally, we should invest in affordable housing and in improving the local infrastructure, particularly roads, bridges, local airports, and water systems. A strong infrastructure helps to attract and maintain jobs in Hoosier communities.

CONCLUSION

There is no higher priority for me than helping to expand job growth and opportunity in southern Indiana. I am immensely pleased with the progress recently made. Working together, there is a lot we can do to ensure that the local economy remains healthy for years to come.

DAWNING OF A NEW ERA

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, there is a great appreciation in our country for hard work and diligence. Those who exhibit those characteristics are usually held in the highest regard. Not everyone achieves the recognition of hard work and diligence on their own. Rather, they earn it through a combination of their own efforts with the willingness of others to provide meaningful opportunities.

The Opportunities Industrialization Center of Metropolitan Saginaw has for the past 26 years scrupulously followed its philosophy of "helping people to help themselves." Thanks to the hard work of Rev. Roosevelt Austin, S., and Martin H. Stark, in cooperation with local businesses like General Motors, Dow Chemical, and Dow Corning, more than 10,000 young men and women have been given a renewed opportunity to show that they can be successful members of society, an inspiration to their communities, and find a new sense of self-worth.

This weekend, OIC of Metropolitan Saginaw will be celebrating the grand opening of its new facility, boasting 14 classrooms including a science lab, a day care center, dining facilities, a 250 seat auditorium, a library, and other impressive resources. It is a true tribute to Frederick D. Ford, who took over as executive director of OIC of Metropolitan Saginaw, 22 years ago, and created the vision of a state of the art building that would provide the combination of resources needed for a successful job training and development program.

This building and OIC shows what can happen when visionary individuals have the opportunity to combine public support, garnered by building fund campaign chairman Henry G. Marsh, with that of State and Federal Government assistance to create the kind of program for which we have even a greater need. Money from the Job Training Partnership Act and the Department of Housing and Urban Development leveraged private donations to create this magnificent facility. People are eagerly looking forward to this new building which will continue the impressive record of accomplishment earned by OIC of Metropolitan Saginaw.

People of all ages will benefit from this facility that will be able to provide them with the best possible training using the most modern techniques and equipment. The high national rankings earned by OIC of Metropolitan Sagi-

naw will continue to pour in, I am sure, as those who support OIC set their sights on even newer challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me and OIC national founder Rev. Leon Sullivan in wishing the OIC of Metropolitan Saginaw every success for its future, and congratulations on its most recent accomplishment.

19 MEMBERS OF CROATIAN FRATERNAL LODGE CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate 19 outstanding individuals who are celebrating 50 years of membership in the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 170. The festivities will begin this Sunday, May 5, with a mass at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Gary, IN, followed by a banquet at Lodge 170 in Merrillville, IN. The esteemed guest speaker at this celebratory event will be the Hon. John Buncich, Sheriff of Lake County, IN.

At this time, I would like to recognize the following members who be will honored on Sunday for their 50 years of membership in the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 170: Rosemary Adams, Bryan Magdaline; John V. Chelich; Alvin Eugene Erbesti; Lillian Gorski; Andy Horvatic; Pauline Jocha; Mary Klen; Francis Medved; Jennie Miller; Anna Mord; Rosemary Petrovich; John Pitula; Shirley Pollizatto; Robert Razumich; Anne Wagner; Catherine Yavor; Catherine Zitz; and Christine Zivcic. These 19 members of Lodge 170 have lived up to the highest ideals of their solidarity with the people of Croatia and service to the Croatian-American population.

I would also like to recognize Ms. Elizabeth Morgavan, who has served as president of Lodge 170 for over 10 years. As an honorary lifetime member, she has dedicated her efforts to all facets of the Croatian Fraternal Union. In 1992, Elizabeth was named "Woman of the Year" by her peers at Lodge 170 for the countless hours she has dedicated to various projects and programs within the Lodge and the Croatian-American community.

Over the years, it has been my privilege and honor to work with the membership of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 170. They have, in no uncertain terms, played a key role in promoting fraternal and cultural activity among the Croatian-American population of northwest Indiana. Lodge 170, the largest Croatian Fraternal Union lodge in the United States, has provided its many members with opportunities to share their ethnic heritage with their fellow countrymen. More importantly, Lodge 170 has provided social assistance and insurance benefits for its members, as well as other Croatian-Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other colleagues to join me in commending the dedication and longevity of all those who have served for 50 years as members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 170.